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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY

EDITED BY

DR. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.

VOLUME LXV.

SESSION 1944–1945.

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PREFACE.

THE past Session, 1944–1945, in its first part, showed little change, but later became notable, as it saw the end of the European War, on May 8, 1945.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, October 28, 1944, when it was decided to have the meetings of the Club in the evenings again after dinner on week-days, and not on Saturdays. Five meetings of the Club were held : in October (Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting), in January, in March (in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union), in May and in June. The Annual General Meeting and the first Ordinary Meeting were held on a Saturday, the others in the evenings of week days. Fortunately no incidents occurred during their course.

The number of attendances for the Session was as follows :—101 members of the Club, 19 members of the B. O. U., 1 guest of the Club and 38 other guests, a total of 159, a very satisfactory rise from the 109 for 1942–1943. As the Club will be able to return to normal next October, the numbers should soon rise to or exceed the pre-war level.

Mr. C. W. Benson sent a note on " The Madagascar Martin in Nyasaland " ; Dr. V. G. L. van Someren communicated an interesting paper on " The Onset of Sexual Activity in Birds ", Mr. Jeffery Harrison a note on " Great Tits from Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire " ; Dr. James Harrison, Mr. W. B. Tucker and Colonel Meinertzhagen communications on Purple-headed Starlings in the British Isles ; Dr. Ernst Mayr a note on " The Status of *Ploceus graueri* " ; and Mr. P. A. Clancey one on " The Racial Status of Northern Scottish Great Tits ". At the combined meeting of the Union and Club Mr. A. S. Phillips showed a wonderful colour film of bird life in different parts of England and Scotland.

New forms were described by Mr. W. P. Lowe, Mr. C. M. N. White, Dr. V. G. L. van Someren, Dr. J. M. Harrison and Mr. S. Dillon Ripley.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Lieut.-Colonel Mackworth-Praed continued their valuable notes on East African birds.

The Club entertained, as a distinguished guest, Sergeant Allen Cruickshank, U.S. Army.

There was no Chairman's Address again this year.

As already mentioned, the European War came to an end on VE day, Tuesday, May 8, 1945, having lasted from September 3, 1939, a period of almost six years. It is a meritorious feat that the Club was able to carry on during this prolonged period.

G. CARMICHAEL LOW,
Editor.

London, July 1945.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(Founded October 5, 1892.)

TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

RULES.

(*As amended, October* 12, 1938.)

Management.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; two Vice-Chairmen, who shall serve for one year, and who shall not be eligible for the next year; an Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each be elected for a term of one year, but who shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

II. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

Subscriptions.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Any Member who resigns his Membership on going abroad may be readmitted without payment of a further Entrance Fee at the Committee's discretion.

Temporary Associates.

V. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who are ordinarily resident outside the British Isles, and ornithologists from the British Empire overseas or from foreign countries, may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee as Temporary Associates of the Club for the duration of any visit to the British Isles not exceeding one Session. An entrance fee of five shillings shall be payable in respect of every such admission

if the period exceeds three months. The privileges of Temporary Associates shall be limited to attendance at the ordinary meetings of the Club and the introduction of guests.

Meetings.

VI. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VII. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VIII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

Introduction of Visitors.

IX. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

'Bulletin' of the Club.

X. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the ' Bulletin, but if they desire to exercise this privilege they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the ' Bulletin ' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the ' Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the ' Bulletin ' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the ' Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

XI. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the ' Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor ; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

Alteration and Repeal of Rules.

XII. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

COMMITTEE, 1944–1945.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith, *Chairman* (elected 1943).
Mr. F. J. F. Barrington, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1943).
Dr. E. Hopkinson, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1943).
Dr. G. Carmichael Low, *Editor* (elected 1940), and *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1943).
Miss E. P. Leach, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1942).
Mr. James Fisher (elected 1942).
Mrs. Winifred Boyd Watt (elected 1942).
Mr. C. W. G. Paulson (elected 1944).
Captain C. H. B. Grant (elected 1944).

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club, Past and Present.

Chairmen.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.	1892–1913.
Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1913–1918.
W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–1927.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1927–1930.
Major S. S. Flower.	1930–1932.
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G. M. Mathews.	1935–1938.
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson.	1938–1943.
D. Seth-Smith.	1943–

Vice-Chairmen.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1930–1931.
W. L. Sclater.	1931–1932.
H. F. Witherby.	1932–1933.
G. M. Mathews.	1933–1934.
N. B. Kinnear.	1934–1935.
H. Whistler.	1935–1936.
D. Seth-Smith.	1936–1937.
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Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1938–1939.
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Captain C. H. B. Grant.	1940–1943.
Mr. W. B. Tucker.	1940–1943.
Mr. F. J. F. Barrington.	1943–
Dr. E. Hopkinson.	1943–

Editors.

R. Bowdler Sharpe.	1892–1904.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.	1904–1914.
D. A. Bannerman.	1914–1915.
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Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1940–

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Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
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Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–1929.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1929–1935.

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Miss E. P. Leach	1942–

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Watt, Mrs. H. Winifred Boyd, F.Z.S. (*Committee*); Cintra Lodge, 7 Knole Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

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125 Workman, William Hughes: Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

Worms, Charles de; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

Yamashina, The Marquis; 49 Minami Hiradei, Shikuya-ku, Tokio, Japan.

Total number of Members.... 127

NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and those residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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White, C. M. N.

On Francolins from Angola and Northern Rhodesia and two new Races, *Pternistis afer manueli* and *P. a. mackenziei*.

A new Lark (*Mirafra africana gomesi*) from Angola, a new Pipit (*Anthus vaalensis muhingæ*) from the Belgian Congo, a new Cordon Bleu (*Uræginthus bengalus semotus*), and a new Francolin (*Francolinus albogularis meinertzhageni*), both from Northern Rhodesia 5–8

A new Race of Barbet (*Buccanodon sowerbyi buttoni*) from Northern Rhodesia 18–19

A new Race of Bustard (*Eupodotis senegalensis mackenziei*) from Northern Rhodesia 47

A new Race of Lark (*Mirafra africana okahandjae*) from South-west Africa 48

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

21 DEC 1944
PURCHASED

No. CCCCLIV.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Chairman: Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

This was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 1944, following a luncheon at 1.30 p.m.; 19 Members present.

(1) The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held at the Rembrandt Hotel on Tuesday, October 12, 1943, which had been published in the 'Bulletin' (lxiv. 1943, pp. 1–4), were confirmed and signed.

(2) Dr. G. Carmichael Low, the Honorary Secretary, read his report for the past Session, 1943–1944, as follows:—

He said their had been a further slight reduction in the membership of the Club, from 130 to 123. He regretted to say that the following nine members had died during the year: E. C. Stuart Baker, Brigadier-General Goland van Holt Clarke, H. W. Ellis, Rev. James Hale, T. C. Jeffrey, Dr. W. Norman May, T. H. Newman, W. L. Sclater, and H. F. Witherby. One member, H. P. O. Cleave, had resigned. Two new members, R. S. R. Fitter and Jeffrey Harrison, had joined the Club.

Four meetings of the Club had been held. In October (Annual General and Ordinary Meeting), in December, in May (in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union, in place of their usual Annual General Meeting in March), and in June. No meeting of the Club was held in January or February, but a 'Bulletin' was published in March. The first two meetings were held in the evenings after dinner, the May one on a Saturday, in the middle of the day, and the June one again in the evening, all at the Rembrandt Hotel.

The number of attendances for the Session was as follows:—71 members of the Club, 17 members of the B. O. U., and 22 guests, a total of 110 in comparison with 109 for the previous Session.

Miss E. P. Leach, the Hon. Treasurer, made the following remarks :—

I have to apologize for not making a complete Report to the Meeting. Owing to labour difficulties, together with illness among Staff, the accounts for the sales of the ' Bulletin ' and the incidental expenses of its production were not sent in soon enough, and actually were only in my hands yesterday. However, I can say that the Accounts will now be complete and audited in time for publication in the next ' Bulletin '. [This number, p. 3.] The financial position is still quite satisfactory, and from the glance I have had at the statement I see that Sales have gone up, and it is gratifying to know that increasing interest is taken in our publications outside the Membership.

At the last General Meeting it was generally agreed that the balance standing to our current account was unnecessarily high ; we therefore purchased £100 3 per cent. Savings Bonds last November.

For some time past the B. O. C. has contributed annually to the production of the ' Zoological Record ', and the Secretary of the Zoological Society has written to measking that we will continue to do so. [The usual contribution of ten guineas was agreed to.]

(4) Election of Officers.

The Committee proposed that there be no change in the Vice-Presidents for the year and that Mr. C. W. G. Paulson and Captain C. H. B. Grant be elected to the Committee in place of Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith and Mr. B. G. Harrison, retiring through seniority.

(5) Arrangements for Session.

It was decided to have the Meetings of the Club in the evenings again after dinner on week-days and not on Saturdays, the dates and numbers being left to the Officials of the Club to arrange.

Committee, 1944–45.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith, *Chairman* (elected 1923).
Mr. F. J. Barrington, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1943).
Dr. E. Hopkinson, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1943).
Dr. G. Carmichael Low, *Editor* (elected 1940) and *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1943).
Miss E. P. Leach, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1942).
Mr. James Fisher (elected 1942).
Mrs. Winifred Boyd Watt (elected 1942).
Mr. C. W. G. Paulson (elected 1944).
Captain C. H. B. Grant (elected 1944).

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Financial Statement for the year ended August 31, 1944.

Year ended Aug. 31, 1943. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	To Balance in hand, September 1, 1943 :—		
222 15 10	Cash at Bank, Current a/c .	238 2 9	
1 10 7	Do. Deposit a/c .	1 10 7	
	500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by		
400 0 0	Bank	400 0 0	
255 13 4	£256 14*s.* 1*d.* 3½% War Loan	255 13 4	
8 3	Cash in hands of Treasurer .	7 7	
			895 14 3
3 0 0	„ Entrance Fees of 2 Members	....	2 0 0
	„ Subscriptions :—		
4 4 0	Arrears	1 1 0	
120 15 0	115 Members at £1 1 0	120 15 0	
1 0 0	1 Member at £1 0 0	1 0 0	
1 2 0	1 Member at £1 2 0	– – –	
2 6 0	2 Members et £1 3 0	– – –	
2 2 0	In advance	– – –	
			122 16 0
37 6 0	„ Sales of 'Bulletin'	....	45 18 5
8 19 8	„ 3½% War Loan Interest ..	8 19 8	
– – –	„ 3% Savings Bonds „	18 8	
			9 18 4
£1,061 2 8			£1,076 7 0

Year ended Aug. 31, 1943. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	By Printing and Distribution of		
99 5 9	Publications and 'Bulletin'.		113 6 2
	„ Compiling Index and List of		
6 7 6	Authors to 'Bulletin'	....	6 7 1
	„ Hire of Lantern, &c., at		
8 15 0	Meetings		3 12 6
	„ Zoological Society—Contribution towards cost of 'Zoological		
10 10 0	Record'	....	10 10 0
	„ Miss Barclay Smith—Report		
20 0 0	on Wildfowl	....	– – –
	„ Miscellaneous Expenditure, including Audit Fee, Printing,		
20 10 2	Stationery and Postages ..	....	16 16 11
	„ Balance in hand, August 31, 1944 :—		
238 2 9	Cash at Bank, Current a/c .	167 15 11	
1 10 7	Do. Deposit a/c .	1 10 7	
	500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank.	400 0 0	
400 0 0			
255 13 4	„ £256 14*s.* 1*d.* 3½% War Loan.	255 13 4	
7 7	Cash in hands of Treasurer..	14 6	
– – –	3% Savings Bonds 1960/70..	100 0 0	
			925 14 4
£1,061 2 8			£1,076 7 0

E. P. LEACH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

We have examined the foregoing Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Club for the year ended August 31, 1944, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank and the Securities.

Savings Certificates and 3½% War Loan.

224, Regent Street, London, W.1.
November 3, 1944.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

ORDINARY MEETING.

The four-hundred-and-forty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday afternoon, October 28, 1944, following the Annual General Meeting at 2.30 P.M.

Chairman: Mr. D. SETH-SMITH.

Members present:—B. O. C.: Dr. D. A. BANNERMAN; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH; Miss M. G. BEST; Miss E. M. GODMAN; B. G. HARRISON; J. G. HARRISON; Dr. J. M. HARRISON; N. B. KINNEAR; D. LACK; Miss E. P. LEACH (*Hon. Treasurer*); Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor and Hon. Secretary*); J. D. MACDONALD; C. W. G. PAULSON; H. PEASE; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON; B. W. TUCKER; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT. B. O. U.: Major G. AYLMER; T. L. BARTLETT; R. PRESTON DONALDSON.

Guest of the Club:—Sgt. ALLAN CRUICKSHANK, U.S. Army.

Guests:—Major F. S. BARNES; Mrs. G. CARMICHAEL LOW; N. S. MACQUEEN; Miss B. N. SOLLY; Captain A. L. ZEMPEL, U.S. Army.

Members of the B. O. C., 19; of the B. O. U., 3; Guest of the Club, 1; Guests, 5. Total, 28.

The International Congresses.

Dr. JAMES HARRISON showed a film of the VIIIth and IXth International Congresses held at Oxford and Rouen in 1934 and 1938. The pictures were excellent and were much enjoyed by those present.

The Madagascar Martin from Nyasaland.

Mr. C. W. BENSON sent the following note:—

In a collection recently made for me by my native collector, Jali Makawa, on Lake Chilwa, near Zomba, Nyasaland, are three specimens, a male and two females, of a Martin which was unknown to me. I therefore submitted one of them to Dr. Austin Roberts, who has informed me that it is attributable to the Madagascar Martin, *Phedina borbonica madagascariensis* Hartlaub. He finds that it agrees perfectly with plate 29 in Sharpe and Wyatt's Monograph of the Hirundinidæ.

This seems to be the first record from the African mainland. Sclater, in 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum', records it from Pemba Island. Moreau, in "Migrant Birds in Tanganyika Territory" ('Tanganyika Notes and Records', no. 4, Oct. 1937), considers it may be expected to occur on the Tanganyika Territory coast, and suspects it may be a rare

resident on Pemba Island, though Pakenham does not mention it in his recent papers on "The Birds of Zanzibar and Pemba" (Ibis, 1939, pp. 522–554; 1943, pp. 165–189).

My specimens had gonads very small. One of them was moulting the primaries. Messrs. A. C. Dent and G. V. Thorneycroft, who were on Lake Chilwa the same day as these specimens were collected, June 28, 1944, and are reliable field-ornithologists, informed me that there were hundreds of the birds, which were, of course, unknown to them.

The specimen submitted to Dr. Roberts will be retained by him for the Transvaal Museum, and the other two will be presented to the British Museum (Natural History) in due course.

A new Banded Rail from the Philippines.

Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe sent the following :—

Hypotænidia torquata maxwelli, subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *H. torquata* (Linnæus), but differs from that bird's description in Cat. Birds B. M. vol. xxiii. p. 43, in having no grey on the chin, which is black like the rest of the throat; the band on the chest is, like the back, mixed with maroon-chestnut; no blackish bars on rump, no ruddy brown on greater series of wing-coverts or on the tail-feathers. The primary coverts are olive; the quills have outer web olive-brown, inner web slaty barred with white. Shafts of feathers of the back white. It is also considerably larger.

Distribution.—North New Guinea ?

Type.—Adult female, in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

Measurements of type.—Wing 136, exposed culmen 38, tarsus 52, tail 48 mm.

Remarks.—The Exeter Museum has recently received from P. H. Maxwell, Esq., this new Rail, which died in the London Zoo on February 29, 1944. It was obtained in Manila by the Hon. Anthony Chaplin, on the way back from Lord Moyne's expedition to New Guinea. It gives me pleasure to name this bird after Mr. Maxwell, who has generously presented to the Exeter Museum so many rare and valuable specimens.

New Races of Lark, Pipit, and Cordon Bleu from Northern Rhodesia, Angola, and the Belgian Congo.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following descriptions :—

Mirafra africana gomesi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Mirafra africana kabalii* White, in lacking the slaty-blue colour on the lower back and in being very much darker.

Upper surface with strongly marked blackish centres to the feathers, and the streaking well developed on the hind neck and upper back, this streaking being hardly apparent in *M. a. kabalii*. The head and upper back have rufous margins similar to *Mirafra africana grisescens* Sharpe, but more sandy in colour, the lower back more drab grey-brown than *M. a. grisescens*. Underside much as in *M. a. kabalii*, but breast spots more strongly marked. Rufous areas on the wing darker than in *M. a. kabalii*.

Distribution.—The Macondo district of Angola, south to the Konkano Plain region, east of Balovale, Northern Rhodesia.

Type.—In my collection. Female. Plain in Macondo district, south-eastern Angola, east of the Lunyuwe River, June 29, 1944. Collected by K. Muzeya.

Measurements of type.—Wing 95, culmen from base 17, tail 61, tarsus 29, hind claw 11 mm.

Remarks.—The Larks of this species have a very broken distribution in this part of Africa ; I know of no other places where they are found except on the watershed plains. The nearest race to the west is the grey, pale *M. a. kabalii*, whilst 150 miles to the north occurs the totally different *M. a. chapini* Grant & Mackworth-Praed, of which I have now obtained further material from the north of Mwinilunga and northwards, close to its type locality, in the Katanga. Further south the status of the birds provisionally referred to *M. a. grisescens* at Mazabuka, and in the Barotse Province, is still obscure until more material is available. Named after Señor A. P. Gomes, of Lumbala, Angola, to whom I have been indebted for much assistance in that country. Two others, a male and female, measure respectively :—Wing 95, 87 ; tail 64, 59 ; tarsus 29, 26 ; hind claw 11, 10 ; bill 19, 16 mm.

Anthus vaalensis muhingæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *A. v. chobiensis* Roberts in being much darker and browner, less grey on the head top ; upper surface darker and browner, more olive-brown and not so greyish as in *A. v. chobiensis* ; underside more heavily pigmented, the breast and flanks being strongly tawny, and of a much richer shade than in *A. v. chobiensis*.

Distribution.—The border of the Mwinilunga district of Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo, occurring on both sides of the border.

Type.—In my collection. Male. Muhinga Plain, south of Nasondoye, Belgian Congo, June 1, 1944. Collected by K. Muzeya.

Measurements of type.—Wing 101, tail 73, culmen from base 18·5, hind claw 10·5 mm.

Remarks.—In a paper in the press I have recorded the existence of *A. vaalensis* Shelley in the Balovale district of Northern Rhodesia, where it occurs side by side with *A. leucophrys* Vieillot. It is now possible to record the same position a further 250 miles to the north, and to extend the range of *A. vaalensis* into the Katanga.

Measurements of a series of this new race.—Wing, male 96–101, female 94–99 ; tail, male 69–74, female 68–70 ; bill 18–19 ; hind claw 9–10·5 mm.

Material examined.—*A. v. muhingæ* six, *A. v. chobiensis* ten specimens.

Uræginthus bengalus semotus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *U. b. bengalus* Linnæus in being duller, more greyish, and less richly coloured above, the nearest geographical race, being *U. b. katangæ* Vincent, which is exceptionally dark and intensely coloured. The blue of the underside in this race is lighter than *U. b. katangæ* ; the red cheek-patch is tinged with purple.

Type.—In my collection. Male. Chingi, Chavuma, Balovale district, Northern Rhodesia, February 3, 1944. Collected by myself.

Measurements of type.—Wing 54, tail 58, culmen 11 mm.

Remarks.—There is little to add to the description of this new race. No form of *U. bengalus* occurs anywhere near the Balovale district ; the nearest known locality in Northern Rhodesia is south of Lake Tanganyika. Two specimens examined of this new race.

A new Race of Francolin from Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. White also sent the following description of a new race of Francolin :—

Francolinus albogularis meinertzhageni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Allied to *F. a. gambogæ* Mackworth-Praed and *F. a. dewittei* Chapin in the breast-feathers being margined with chestnut and having the lores and eyebrows rufous buff. Differs from these two races in having the crown-feathers blacker, not so grey or brown, though still margined with rufous. No black spots on the foreneck such as occur in *F. a. dewittei*, nor anywhere on the underside. The abdomen lighter and more sandy coloured than in *F. a. dewittei*. Tail and under tail-coverts as described for *F. a. dewittei*. The bill, with its light yellow base to both maxilla and mandible, agrees with the other races of *F. albogularis* Hartlaub. The feet are brownish yellow and there is a large and well-developed spur.

Type.—Adult male, from Kumanu Plain, edge of the Kasisi Plains, west Balovale, October 11, 1943. Collected by K. Muzeya.

Measurements of type.—Wing 133, tail 57, culmen from base 22, tarsus 36 mm.

Remarks.—In October 1943 my African collector obtained a strange Francolin in the west of the Balovale district. It was one of a party of four feeding on termites on the edge of a large plain in the early morning. I omitted this bird from my paper on the birds of the Kaonde-Lunda Province, now in the press, pending more evidence as to its true affinities. Dr. J. P. Chapin has now very kindly provided me with some further data in the form of notes upon his *F. a. dewittei* Chapin, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxix. 1937, p. 395 : Kasiki, Marungu district, Belgian Congo. It becomes necessary, therefore, to name the Balovale bird, and I propose to name it in honour of Colonel R. Meinertzhagen. The distribution of the races of *F. albogularis* is such that no useful inferences can be drawn at this stage. It is evidently an uncommon bird in all parts of its range.

Some new Records from Uganda.

Dr. V. G. L. van Someren forwarded the following note :—

Amongst a small collection of birds taken in the western area of Uganda, in the Bwamba Valley west of the Ruwenzori Mts., by Mr. G. R. C. van Someren are several of peculiar interest from the point of view of distribution. As several of them come within groups already dealt with by Grant and Mackworth-Praed, and have not hitherto been recorded from Uganda, though known from the Ituri and elsewhere, I submit this note for early publication so that the birds may be included in the Uganda list :—

Ceratogymna atrata Temminck. A sight record of several, and one specimen taken by Dr. Haddow.

Lophoceros hartlaubi granti Hartert.

Lophoceros camurus camurus (Cassin).

Bycanistes sharpii duboisi Sclater.

Campethera permista (Reichenow) race ? The relationship of *C. permista* to *C. caillautii* (Malherbe) requires looking into.

Indicator feæ theresæ Alexander. According to Chapin, Bull. A. M. 1939, p. 547, this is a synonym of *I. maculatus stictithorax* Reichenow.

Prodotiscus insignis insignis (Cassin). The birds previously taken in central and east Uganda hitherto associated with the race *P. i. emini* Shelley, which race is said now to be identical with the nominotypical, differ very considerably from the Bwamba birds.

Illadopsis fulvescens (Cassin) nr. *fulvescens*. These birds are not *I. f. ugandæ* (van Someren) from the forests of central Uganda, though Chapin associates birds from eastern Congo with this race.

Pyrrhurus scandens race ?

Thescelocichla leucopleura (Cassin).

Eremomela badiceps badiceps Fraser. The Elgon, North Kavirondo, race is markedly distinct.

Camaroptera superciliaris flavigularis Reichenow. Very distinct from the race *C. s. ugandæ* Clarke.

Dryoscopus senegalensis Hartlaub.

Oriolus nigripennis Verreaux. A record of particular interest which has a bearing on my suggestion that *O. percivali* O.-Grant is probably an eastern race of *O. nigripennis*.

Anthreptes seimundi minor Bates. Previously included in the Uganda list on evidence of a single bird taken by Neave at Entebbe. I have it from Budongo, Mabira, Sezibwa River, Entebbe.

Amauresthes fringilloides (Lafresnaye). Though widely distributed, it does not appear to have been taken in Uganda.

Nigrita bicolor saturatior Reichenow. The type came from Uganda, but this race is said to be synonymous with *N. b. brunnescens* Reichenow.

I hope to be able to submit a brief paper to 'The Ibis' which will embrace a discussion on racial forms represented in the collection, together with field notes by the collector.

The presence of the above listed birds within the Uganda boundaries was to be expected, for a tongue of the Ituri Forest crosses the Bwamba Valley. The valley and the gap to the north are undoubtedly the line of extension of many Congo species eastward to Uganda. This applies not only to birds but to mammals and insects.

This area is being slowly worked, but it would be of great interest to carry out a similar survey immediately east of Lake Albert Edward toward Ankole and Lake Victoria to compare data.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following five notes :—

(1) On *Saxicola robusta* (Tristram), Ibis, 1870, p. 497.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Vincent has, in a letter to us dated April 29, 1944, asked whether Ticehurst is right in considering *S. robusta* as an indeterminate race. This name has already been discussed by Hume, 'Stray Feathers', ix. 1880, p. 133; Meinertzhagen, Ibis, 1922, p. 28; and Ticehurst, Ibis, 1936, p. 820, and Hume and Meinertzhagen agree that the Mysore specimen agrees with Natal and Zululand birds, and it has been settled that the Himalayan bird is *Saxicola przewalskii* (Pleske). In the Bull. B. O. C. xi. 1940, p. 16, we used *S. robusta*.

Both Hume, Meinertzhagen and Ticehurst have examined Tristram's specimens, which are now in the Liverpool Museum, and agree that the Mysore bird has a white abdomen and under-tail coverts, and thus agrees with the Natal and Zululand birds. Tristram's description states that the breast to abdomen is not white, and this, therefore, cannot apply to the Mysore specimen nor to the Natal and Zululand birds. In the original description no actual types are designated, but mention is made of two specimens which are now known to represent two different races. It must be accepted that a description has priority over a type, and in this case the description is not that of the Natal and Zululand bird, but could perhaps be that of the *S. przewalskii*. We consider, however, that Ticehurst's decision that *S. robusta* is indeterminate should be adhered to, and in any case *S. robusta* cannot be used for the Natal and Zululand race, which now becomes *Saxicola torquata orientalis* W. L. Sclater, Ibis, 1911, p. 409: Umfolosi Station, Zululand.

(2) On the type locality of *Sporopipes frontalis abyssinicus* Mearns.

Mearns describes this race in Smiths. Misc. Coll. lvi. no. 14, 1910, p. 17, and gives Abyssinia as the type locality. The type was collected by Blondeel, and in endeavouring to fix a more definite type locality we wrote to Dr. Wetmore, who has kindly informed us, under date June 27, 1944, that "this type was purchased by the United States National Museum in 1884 together with other specimens, the majority of which were not African, from Dr. Eugene Rey, a dealer of Leipzig, Germany. Blondeel must have been some collector-correspondent of Rey's, concerning whom we have no other information."

Perhaps when the present war is over, and we can again get in touch with German ornithologists, some information may be obtained as to whom Blondeel was and where he travelled or resided in Africa. Meanwhile a more definite type locality than Abyssinia must remain in abeyance.

(3) On the type locality of *Euplectes afra* (Gmelin), Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, 1789, p. 857,

Gmelin gives Africa and references to Brown, Ill. Zool. 1776, p. 58, and Latham, Syn. Bds. ii. pt. 1. 1783, p. 155, both of whom give Africa. Latham, Ind. Orn. 1790, p. 394, gives Africa; Vieillot, Ois. Chant. 1805, p. 52**, pl. xxviii.**, states Buffon's "Wonabée" was founded on Bruce, Abyssinia, and also gives Torrid Zone Africa. The same author in N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xii. 1817, p. 232, gives Abyssinia and Senegal. As the typical race does not occur in Abyssinia, we can accept Vieillot's Senegal as the type locality of *Euplectes afra afra* (Gmelin).

(4) On the type locality of *Othyphantes stuhlmanni sharpii* Shelley, Ibis, 1898, p. 557.

There is some doubt as to the exact locality whence the type was collected, as Benson has described *O. s. nyikæ* from the Nyika Plateau in Bull. B. O. C. lviii. 1938, p. 113, and in a letter dated July 10, 1944, kindly informs me that so far as he knows this race is confined to the Nyika Plateau.

In the original description of *O. s. sharpii* the locality is given as "Nyasaland (exact locality unrecorded)". We know that *O. s. sharpii* occurs in southern Tanganyika Territory from the Ufipa Plateau to the Iringa district, and Benson in the above quoted letter states that he was for over a month in the highlands between the Nyika Plateau and the Nyasaland-Tanganyika Territory boundary collecting birds, and had *O. s. sharpii* occurred there says "I think I would have got it".

In Shelley's paper the locality "Tanganyika Plateau" is given, and Benson feels sure that there is no such locality in northern Nyasaland. The evidence points to *O. s. sharpii* not occurring in Nyasaland but only in southern Tanganyika Territory, and it would appear that it should occur in the Rungwe area at the north end of Lake Nyasa.

The type locality of *Othyphantes stuhlmanni sharpii* can be at present fixed as south-western Tanganyika Territory, a more exact locality being given when its distribution south of the Ufipa and Iringa areas is better known.

(5) On the type locality of *Coliuspasser concolor* (Cassin), Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1848, p. 66.

Cassin gives the locality as Africa and states that the type is in the Rivoli collection without a label. There is apparently no history to this specimen, and where or by whom it was collected cannot now be traced. All authors give either Africa or no locality, and we cannot find that any definite locality has been given. We therefore propose to fix the type locality of *Coliuspasser ardens concolor* as Senegal.

Notice.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Thursday, January 25, 1944, following a dinner at 6.45 P.M.

28 FEB 1945
PURCHASED

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCLV.

The four-hundred-and-forty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Thursday, January 25, 1945, following a dinner at 7 P.M.

Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen the chair was taken by Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members present:—Miss C. M. ACLAND; Lieut.-Colonel F. W. DEWHURST; R. S. R. FITTER; B. G. HARRISON; J. G. HARRISON; N. B. KINNEAR; D. LACK; Miss E. P. LEACH; Miss C. LONGFIELD; J. D. MACDONALD; Sir P. MANSON-BAHR; Colonel R. MEINERTZHAGEN; G. PAULSON; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY; Miss G. M. RHODES; C. G. DE WORMS.

Guests:—E. R. PARRINDER; Dr. B. B. ROBERTS.

Members, 17; Guests, 2. Total, 19.

Mr. DAVID LACK made a short communication on the geographical and seasonal variations in the size of clutch and brood in the Robin, *Erithacus rubecula* (Linnæus). He also appealed for further information on the subject from unpublished sources, both from Britain and abroad. Every nest record is of interest, and should be sent in the form of (i.) number of eggs or young; (ii.) date; (iii.) locality, to nearest county in Britain and to nearest province abroad. The enquiry is to be extended to cover 1945.

Mr. R. S. R. FITTER made some remarks on the records of the Black Woodpecker, *Dryocopus m. martius* (Linnæus), in the British Isles.

A new Race of Blue Tit from Switzerland.

Dr. JAMES M. HARRISON sent the following note on a new race of Blue Tit from Switzerland, and made some remarks upon the species.

Parus cæruleus flückigeri, subsp. nov.

Description.—White of forehead extends for about 8 mm., shading into azure-blue of crown; face and cheeks white, with a dark blue stripe running through eye from base of bill to dark blue sides of neck and nape, which

joins mental patch and throat of same colour in front. Above the dark blue eye-stripe a white superciliary stripe extends from the white of forehead backwards to meet its fellow on the opposite side at occiput above the dark blue collar, thus delimiting the blue of crown. A dull white nuchal patch situate cephalad to mantle. Mantle, back and rump markedly grey, with only the faintest blue-green wash. Primaries, secondaries and wing-coverts azure-blue, white tips to greater wing-coverts forming narrow white wing-bar; secondaries with pronouncedly large white tips; underparts very pale and rather dull greenish white, a ventral streak of sooty grey from breast to mid-point of belly. Belly whitish, as also under tail-coverts, flanks dull yellowish white, axillaries palish yellow. Under surfaces rectrices, primaries and secondaries grey.

Soft parts: Bill slate, cutting edges whitish. Tarsus and toes leaden blue-grey.

Distribution and Habitat.—In mixed woodland at or about 3000 ft. in the Bernese Oberland, but possibly extending to even lower altitudes.

Type.—Male, February 21, 1937, Interlaken, Switzerland. (In my collection.)

Measurements of type.—Wing 64, bill 8·5, tarsus 17, tail 50 mm.

Remarks.—Named in honour of Ernst Flükiger, naturalist, of Interlaken. A series of ten Swiss birds has been studied, while as comparative material, for the loan of which I am greatly indebted to the Hon. Mrs. Hugh Whistler and Colonel Meinertzhagen, I have also had the following: 2 Estonian, 10 German, 7 Polish, 17 Northern France, 6 Dutch, 10 British, 17 Pyrenean, 18 Spanish, 4 Portuguese, 10 Swiss, 6 Hungarian, 8 Albanian and Dalmatian, 3 Bulgarian, 1 Thasopuolo, 6 Corsican, 5 Italian, 5 Sicilian, 8 Mesopotamian.

This material brings to light certain generalities and also indicates a biological trend from a phenotypical influence towards a possible genotypical fixation in the new form described. The material can be divided into categories, and it will be noted that four groups enjoy an insular habitat, the remainder being distributed over a major area of the continent of Europe, the Near and Middle East. If this material is carefully examined a good deal of individual variation is exhibited in the specimens in each group and in those of this collection which have been accepted as representative of the typical race, viz., those from Estonia, Poland and North Germany; there are amongst them none which show a very marked darkness of the mantle, but when the birds from Northern France and Holland are reviewed there are a good many which show mantles as dark as is seen in *P. c. obscurus* Pražák, while it is equally true that when series of that form are investigated, birds with remarkably pale

green mantles can be found, and it is apparent that as a criterion as to whether any individual specimen is of continental origin or not, mantle colour is not entirely reliable, and it has been found during this research that the larger white tips to the secondaries provide a character of greater dependance. Such birds as I have seen from Italy and the very accessible island of Sicily, as also those from Hungary, would appear to belong to the typical race. Corsica and the Spanish peninsula both support distinct forms, Spain and Portugal no doubt owing their indigenous race to isolation by the Pyrenean massive. It is desirable to state that the three Bulgarian birds were collected at the end of April and early May, and are already so worn that an exact determination is impossible ; similarly the single specimen collected on the small rocky island of Thasopuolo, off the north shore of the Ægean Sea, is too worn to allow of subspecific determination, but it may be mentioned that it is very grey on the back and is also very pale underneath ; it is quite possible that this islet actually supports no resident Blue Tit ; it is also very near the mainland of Thrace. It is now with the remaining mainland group that I would deal, birds from the Pyrenees and from Albania and Dalmatia, for when these are taken in review with those already discussed, these specimens show a tonal difference approaching, but not equalling, that exhibited by the Swiss birds in having rather more grey on the backs but with ventral surfaces conforming to the typical race, in so far that they are markedly yellow. It is believed that the form now described represents an evolutionary race which owes its characters to altitudinal isolation, and it is perhaps significant that the two other groups investigated in this study, associated with mountainous terrain, show a similar tendency towards greyness of upper parts, though showing, however, underparts of the same intensity of yellow as is present in examples of the typical form. Birds from Mesopotamia would appear to require further investigation, for they are rather greyer on the back than the typical form, while ventrally they are of a decidedly more delicate sulphurous yellow. Possibly these birds are intermediate between *P. c. cæruleus* Linnæus and *P. c. persicus* Blandford.

The ten Swiss birds give a wing measurement of 64 to 67 mm.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following two notes :—

(1) On the status of *Treron waalia jubaensis* (Benson), Bull. B. O. C. lxiii. 1942, p. 12 : Beila, Juba River, Italian Somaliland.

With reference to this new race, for which Benson gives the characters darker grey head and neck ; mantle olive-green, with a brownish-gold

tinge, less bright than in *T. waalia*; wing shoulder more reddish, less purplish; belly duller yellow, dull chrome; size small; wing, males 170–171, females 168–173 mm. It may be of interest to record that we have re-examined the series in the British Museum but have seen no birds from the Juba River, and find that there is some individual variation, some being duller and others brighter, and the wing measurements, in millimetres, are as follows:—Abyssinia, males 176–188 (eleven measured), females 169–184 (ten measured); Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, males 162–180 (thirteen measured), females 160–180 (nine measured); British Somaliland, males 177–187 (six measured), females 172–178 (two measured); Arabia, males 167–182 (six measured) females 168–175 (four measured); Uganda, males 170–180 (three measured), females 171–181 (three measured); Kenya Colony, male 182 (one measured); French Equatorial Africa, male 175 (one measured), female 175–178 (two measured); Cameroon, males 172–183 (three measured); Nigeria, males 175–184 (five measured), females 172–175 (two measured); Gold Coast, males 179–182 (two measured), females 174–178 (three measured); French Sudan, male 179 (one measured), female 176 (one measured); Portuguese Guinea, male 180 (one measured); Gambia, females 180 (two measured); Senegal, male 170 (one measured). These measurements show considerable variation in the same sex, and we find in the Sudan, Arabia, Uganda and Senegal males equal to or smaller than Benson's measurements, and in Abyssinia, the Sudan and Arabia females smaller and equal to Benson's measurements, so that it can be hardly said that the Juba River birds are smaller. The individual variation and the wing measurements as given above would not appear to support this Juba River Valley race. Benson had five specimens from the Juba River and four from Southern Abyssinia for comparison, and none from the type locality of *T. waalia* Meyer.

(2) On the status of *Ploceus graueri* Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1911, p. 21: Usumbura, Urundi, eastern Belgian Congo.

Hartert compared this bird to both *Ploceus abyssinicus* (Gmelin) = *Ploceus cucullatus abyssinicus*, and *Ploceus nigriceps* (Layard). Dr. Mayr, in a letter dated June 20, 1944, confirms Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 741, in that *P. graueri* is correctly attached to *P. nigriceps*, and further states that this race can be maintained by the male in breeding dress being much darker below and somewhat washed with chestnut. The British Museum has recently received four adult males in breeding dress from Kasulu and Kigoma, western Tanganyika Territory, and there is no doubt that these can be accepted as representing *Ploceus graueri*.

We have compared these four specimens with the general series of males in breeding dress, and we find a Malindi bird darker, both above and below, than a Mombasa bird ; a Mombasa bird is very similar, both above and below, to a Beira bird ; a Kilosa bird is very similar, both above and below, to a Nyasaland bird ; a Kigoma bird is very similar to a Bunyeka, southern Belgian Congo, bird ; a Kasulu bird is similar in amount of colouring on chest and around black on throat to a Nyasaland bird ; an Usambara Mts. bird is paler below than a Mashonaland bird ; a Karema bird is very similar, both above and below, to a Mashonaland bird ; and one Kigoma bird paler, both above and below, than another Kigoma bird.

Generally speaking, northern birds are inclined to be darker below than southern birds, but this is not a constant character, and we found it impossible to fix any sort of distribution if we were to recognize two races. The evidence we have examined shows that we must consider *Ploceus graueri* Hartert to be a synonym of *Ploceus nigriceps* (Layard).

It is possible that the members of different colonies do not normally interbreed, and we may find a character in one colony that may not be found in another.

Some new Records from Nyasaland.

Mr. C. W. Benson sent the following note :—

I have recently collected four male specimens of *Turturœna delegorguei* (Delegorgue) from evergreen forest on Cholo Mt., in southern Nyasaland. All had gonads enlarged. The date of collecting was November 17, 1944. This is an interesting new locality for the occurrence of this species. Several collections have been made in the past on this mountain—by Sir Charles Belcher, Lieut.-Colonel Jack Vincent and Messrs. D. W. K. Macpherson and Rudyerd Boulton. No doubt it was overlooked by these collectors, as it was by my African collector, too, when there for a week in June of this year, owing to its silence at the time of their visits. My attention was drawn to its distinctive " cooing " high up in the forest canopy, of which Mr. R. E. Moreau has given a description for north-eastern Tanganyika Territory in ' The Ibis ', 1932, p. 508, which seems to fit Cholo birds very well too.

Two of my specimens have been submitted to Dr. Austin Roberts, who writes that the only male specimens in the Transvaal Museum are two from Port St. John, eastern Cape Province. He finds that there is considerable individual variation in males, as there certainly is in my specimens.

Two other birds which I have recently collected in Nyasaland, and which have not been recorded previously there, are *Batis fratrum*

(Shelley) and *Telophorus quadricolor quadricolor* (Cassin). Specimens of both have been submitted to Dr. Roberts, and identified accordingly. Both are common in dense thickets at 200 feet altitude above sea-level in the Lengwe Game Reserve of the Chikwawa district.

Another record of interest is *Estrilda perreini poliogastra* (Reichenow) from Chiromo, in the Lower Shiré district, at 200 feet altitude, where a series of six specimens was collected in mid-April. One female had ovary enlarged and yolking, while in two other specimens skull-ossification had not started. Several specimens were submitted to Dr. Roberts, who considers *E. p. poliogastra* distinct from *E. p. incana* Sundevall, to the former of which he attributes my specimens.

In conclusion, I may say that I have found the little-known *Apalis chariessa macphersoni* Vincent, previously recorded in Nyasaland only from Cholo Mt., and elsewhere only from the Uluguru Mts. in Tanganyika Territory, see Moreau, Ibis, 1940, p. 461, in small numbers on Ndirande, Soche, Mpingwe and Michiru Mts. near Blantyre, also on Chiradzulu Mt. Something has been learnt of its nesting habits and voice, details of which my wife and I hope to publish before long.

A new Race of Barbet from Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following description :—

Buccanodon sowerbyi buttoni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Buccanodon sowerbyi stresemanni* Grote, but crown glossy black with a few faint yellow tips to the feathers, the lemon feathers being confined to the lores, suborbital and supraorbital stripes; throat and breast glossy black, with very narrow dark brown fringes.

Distribution.—Only known from the region of Ndola in Northern Rhodesia.

Type.—Adult male, collected May 9, 1944, at Ndola, Northern Rhodesia, by E. L. Button.

Measurements of type.—Wing 96, tail 51, culmen from base 20 mm.

Material examined : *B. s. stresemanni*, 2 specimens ; *B. s. buttoni* 7 specimens ; *B. anchietæ katangæ* Vincent, 20 specimens.

Remarks.—The discovery of this interesting bird makes it necessary to regard *B. anchietæ* Bocage and its races as specifically distinct from *B. sowerbyi* (Sharpe), since in the Ndola district *B. s. buttoni* exists side by side with *B. a. katangæ*.

The arrangement will now be :

Buccanodon anchietæ, Northern and Middle Angola to the south-western Belgian Congo, the Katanga to Elizabethville, and north-western Rhodesia south to Mankoya and Mongu and east to Ndola.

Buccanodon sowerbyi, Mashonaland and Nyasaland to south-western Tanganyika Territory and the Isoka district of northern Rhodesia and west to Ndola. The record of *B. anchietæ* from Serenje requires a re-examination of the specimen to confirm the correctness of the identification. This new race is named after Mr. E. L. Button, who discovered it and has kindly asked me to describe it.

The Onset of Sexual Activity in Birds.

Dr. V. G. L. VAN SOMEREN sent the following note :—

Introduction.

For a period of five years I have been carrying out an intensive biological and semi-ecological investigation into the fauna of a limited area of some 40 acres, comprising forest, bush and veld-land, on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

Particular attention has been paid to the resident bird population, and each year every nest as located is marked on a series of scale maps. Each nest is card-indexed, and its history entered up, together with notes on the parents, eggs, young and food. " Hides " are erected at several nests of a given species, so as to check up data, and a series of photographs taken.

A great deal of information has been accumulated, much of it unrecorded in literature, but during the course of this work it occurred to me that I knew very little indeed about the fundamentals of sexual activity in birds which gave rise to the aspects of bird-life I was now studying.

What are the factors producing and governing sexual activity and matters related thereto ? The literature available to me is strangely silent on these matters.

I am therefore submitting these notes more as a " cockshy ", in the hope that some information may be forthcoming, rather than as a discourse on the subject. Moreover, this subject has a bearing on the recent discussion at the British Ornithologists' Club relative to Physiological Races.

Published data relative to the various aspects of reproduction in birds, more particularly those factors responsible for stimulating and maintaining sexual activity, are very unsatisfactory. We appreciate certain results, but are ignorant of the causes.

The whole question appears to me to be rather complex, especially so in this part of Africa, where the " nesting seasons " vary according to zoo-geographical zones, and are said to be of dual occurrence in certain localities, or all the year round in others.

The very vagueness of published statements such as : " This species

is to be found nesting throughout the year", or "this species nests twice a year", are sufficient to arouse one's interest and to call for evidence in support. That birds of a given species are to be found nesting during two periods of the year—the long and the short rains, for example—is established from recorded authentic data, but that individual pairs of a species will nest twice a year is not proven beyond doubt. I personally have some six records, which, on circumstantial evidence, would seem to support the suggestion: data relative to pairs which range within a limited territory, are resident, and select more or less the identical spot to build in each season, bi-annually, for five successive years. The pairs are not marked by rings or special peculiarity, and a certain check is therefore impossible. They include *Alseonax*, *Tchitrea*, *Chalcomitra* and *Laniarius*.

I have no evidence that a given pair will go on nesting throughout the year, although one pair of *Streptopelia semitorquata* (Rüppell), presumably the same pair, have laid no less than five clutches and raised four broods in a year in a single tree, thrice using the same nest!

A further statement is to the effect that "the nesting season" of this or that bird is between certain dates. This is too dogmatic, and does not take into consideration zoo-geographical zones.

This, then, is the broad problem in East Africa, and no doubt it has its counterpart elsewhere. In the Palæarctic regions there is an annual nesting season during spring and summer, apparently a definite annual periodicity or rhythm. Is there, as a rule, this same periodicity or rhythm in East African birds? Evidence is conflicting, because insufficient. Let me emphasize this point by illustration.

In my immediate area *Euplectes capensis* (Linnæus) on an average, based on five years, nested between the period April–July; in the Machakos area, some 18 miles off, in December–January; in yet another area in November–January. Do these aggregates in these three areas represent three distinct groups, each with a definite annual periodic cycle, or will a pair from area A be capable of nesting in area D in the same year or the following year? We have no evidence to prove it one way or the other.

What are the possible factors producing and influencing sexual activity?

The following remarks are based on accepted fact and on the writer's own personal observations.

It would appear that the factors can be divided into two main groups:

1. A, Physiological; B, Psychological.
2. External: Physical, including climatic or meteorological; environmental.

The interdependence of the groups is very close.

1. A, *Physiological.*—Into this category come those inherent factors or phenomena connected with functioning of certain ductless glands producing secretions or hormones (*i. e.* pituitary) which give rise to controlled normal activity. They affect primary and secondary sexual characters. In the case of mammals, the mensis, or period of menstruation in the female, coincides with a degree of ovarian activity, or ripening of ova, and ovulation. We here have a " cyclical periodicity " or rhythm. In the case of birds we appear to have a somewhat similar periodic occurrence, taking place each spring (in Palæarctic species), capable, under certain circumstances, of a definite recrudescence, such as when a first clutch is destroyed, or to provide for a second brood in double-brooded species. Either contingency is provided for in that the number of ova which enlarge is in excess of the normal clutch, the reversion or shrinkage of excess ova being slow and over a long period. The above remarks may appear elementary to some, but it is necessary to state them in order to appreciate the whole problem.

This periodicity may be termed the " rhythm theory ". It appears to be applicable to Palæarctic species, and those African species which have but one yearly nesting period. It is not so easy of application to those East African species which, if report is correct, nest twice a year, or oftener. If there is a dual nesting season, corresponding to the rains, or even to the dry periods in between, these seasons are not equally spaced.

Experiment and observation go to show that the functioning of these glands with effect of the gonads can be and is normally influenced by the state of general well-being, an adequate supply of suitable food and exercise producing a stimulation.

As I shall show later, though copulation may take place, inhibitory factors may prevent nesting. Moreover, pairing-up may take place weeks before arrival at the nesting ground.

This is only one aspect of the influence of hormones ; there is another outward sign, viz. the assumption of a breeding dress, a secondary sexual character. The male breeding dress in many species is totally different from that of the off-season. The assuming of this dress does not necessarily connote activity of the gonads concurrently or even subsequently ; nor does this outward change in the male indicate a recrudescence of sexual activity on the part of the female.

These in brief are two of the chief physiological phenomena.

B, *Psychological.*—We are here dealing with something much more difficult to define. The mental state, especially that of the female, is a vital factor. It is, moreover, one which is not entirely governed by

physical fitness : it is influenced by and is closely connected with circumstance and environment, as I hope to show. It is nevertheless very real and potent.

I can best demonstrate it by a few illustrations. In March 1935, after a failure of long and short rains, two male *Euplectes capensis* turned up at their breeding grounds as usual, in full plumage. They stayed a week but no females were noted. They returned during the second week of April and were joined by five females, who, however, remained together and appeared to resent attention. Owing to the previous drought, grass and herbage in the sites previously selected for nesting were dry and very short. The males were noted to be playing with grass and weaving rings in sites obviously unsuited to normal requirements.

The females were disinterested. One male and two females disappeared in mid-May. This remaining male was seen to copulate with one of the females. He started several nests in clumps of semi-scandent composites, in a *Rhus* tree, and in a clump of tall bamboo. Two females eventually decided to complete and partially line two nests in clumps of composite well apart from each other ; the third female disappeared. One female laid a clutch of three eggs ; the other laid one egg, then abandoned the nest, which was still unlined. She adopted and completed another nest in thicker composites and laid two eggs during the first week in June. This delayed activity was, I feel sure, due to a state of mental upset caused by the lack of usual nest-sites and unsuitability of sites eventually utilized. Normally they would have nested in April ! It resulted in young being still in nest no. 2 when the cock was well on with his eclipse plumage !

During the same period, males and females of *Coliuspasser laticauda* (Lichtenstein) arrived in their usual nesting grounds. They hung around for three weeks, then disappeared. Total inhibition due to lack of suitable nest-sites.

Delayed egg-laying due to mental distress.

A female *Cisticola cantans* (Heuglin) was caught up after laying one egg. She was released within a few minutes. She was not seen in or at the nest, that day or the day after, though two more eggs were due for laying. The second and third eggs were laid two and three days later. There was an abnormal time-lag of two days at least.

Another *Cisticola* of the same species had her nest inadvertently knocked down—it held one egg, which was broken. She and her mate built another nest not far off, taking three days to complete the framework. The two remaining eggs of the clutch which would have been laid in the destroyed nest were laid in the new nest on the fourth and fifth day after the disaster. A time-lag of four days.

To take a more homely illustration. If a domestic fowl which is in process of laying her normal clutch be caught up crated and transported, she can inhibit the laying of the balance until her mental upset has been overcome and mental equilibrium re-established.

The female of a pair of *Streptopelia* who were half-way through the building of a nest and were known to have paired up was found with a broken wing. She was brought in, the wing splinted, and put in a cage, where she remained three weeks. No eggs were laid. Total inhibition due to mental distress caused by injury and strange surroundings.

The above illustrations are highly suggestive that the mental or psychological state is important. Illustrations 1 and 2 are closely connected with, and arose from, conditions which I now deal with, viz. :—

2. *External factors.*—The external or physical factors are very important ; they can be summed up in two comprehensive terms, climatic and meteorological. Neither is a self-contained entity in its effects ; both are closely correlated with subsidiary developments arising from them.

The coincidence of nesting activity with the onset of rains is marked, very definite and obvious. This applies to a majority of species ; there are some who select the dry periods, for definite reasons. It is equally true that the late onset of rains will retard nesting activity and reduce it very considerably, so much so that species which normally would have raised two broods are only able to raise one. Initial good grass rains may produce nesting activity, and when the rains proper fail, egg-laying may be curtailed or even inhibited altogether. The most obvious results of deposition of rain, conducive to nesting activity, are production of suitable cover, therefore nesting sites producing vegetable foods (seeds and fruits) and stimulating the emergence of insects. But apart from these tangible results, I feel convinced that other meteorological phenomena, such as quality of light (ultra-violet rays, infra-red rays)—*not* duration of daylight, for the variation is negligible in the tropics—and possibly magnetic change in the atmosphere, should be investigated. Increase in humidity is of importance, not so much, perhaps, in its direct but indirect effect, as influencing food supply. Temperature is equally important.

I have considered in the main such species as nest in bush, scrub and veld-land, areas in which response to climatic change is more rapid, greater and more spectacular than is the case in woodland and forest.

Conditions in forest, especially in evergreen, are more equable, and the change within them is not so marked, but it exists and is of importance. Though not affecting cover so much, except in the case of under-

growth, it does affect humidity and the food supply. In both these respects response is slower : thus, in my experience, the forest birds nest later, and their season is not so prolonged ; their rate of reproduction, *i. e.* clutch-size, is smaller.

Summary.

1. Sexual activity is produced and controlled by hormones. Its outward or visible expression is shown by :
   (*a*) the assumption of a breeding dress in those species which have this special plumage ; and later by
   (*b*) actual pairing or copulation.
2. In the Palæarctic region it has an annual or periodic rhythm. In East Africa this obtains, but in some species it would appear to have a dual periodicity, bi-annual, but not equally spaced, or shows no rhythm or periodicity.
3. Actual nest-building and egg-laying appear to be controlled by some psychological factor, which for various reasons, as cited, may delay, or inhibit, one or both of the normal results of sexual stimulus.
4. It is suggested that change in quality, not duration, of sunlight may have an influence, as also may the electro-magnetic content of the atmosphere.

Notice to Contributors.

The Editor will be obliged if contributors sending in descriptions of new species or races will adopt the following sequence in describing them :—

1. Scientific name.
2. Description.
3. Distribution.
4. Type.
5. Measurements of type.
6. Remarks, including other measurements and any other information.

Contributors are also requested to add the author's name in full after scientific names, the first time they are quoted.

Notice of next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 1945, at the Rembrandt Hotel, in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union and dinner at 7 P.M.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

20 AUG 1945
PURCHASED

No. CCCCLVI.

No Meeting of the Club took place in February.

The four-hundred-and-forty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, on Wednesday, March 21, 1945, preceded by a dinner at 7 P.M., in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR, the President of the Union, took the chair at the dinner, and Mr. F. J. F. BARRINGTON, Vice-Chairman of the Club, at the subsequent Meeting.

Members of the Union Present:—Major G. AYLMER; Lt.-Col. F. M. BAILEY; Dr. R. BRAMLEY; Field-Marshal Sir ALAN BROOKE; Miss T. CLAY; E. COHEN; R. PRESTON DONALDSON; V. G. GARRETT; E. HOSKING; Dr. N. H. JOY; Mrs. H. RAIT KERR; P. H. MAXWELL; E. R. PARRINDER; Dr. B. B. ROBERTS; F. J. WAYDELIN; Maj.-Gen. J. A. C. WHITAKER.

Members of the Club present:—Miss C. ACLAND; Dr. D. A. BANNERMAN; JAMES FISHER; R. S. R. FITTER; Miss E. M. GODMAN; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT; B. G. HARRISON; J. G. HARRISON; Dr. J. M. HARRISON; Dr. E. HOPKINSON (*Vice-Chairman*); Miss E. P. LEACH (*Treasurer*); Miss C. LONGFIELD; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor* and *Hon. Sec.*); J. D. MACDONALD; Lt.-Col. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED; Sir P. MANSON-BAHR; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN; C. W. G. PAULSON; A. S. PHILLIPS; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY; Miss G. RHODES; Col. R. SPARROW; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON; C. DE WORMS.

Guests:—Mrs. F. M. BAILEY; Major F. BARNES; C. C. G. COOPER; Miss L. GODMAN; Miss N. J. GRANT; R. W. HALE; C. HORTON-SMITH; Miss HOSKING; Dr. C. KELLAWAY; Dr. J. C. MOTTRAM; D. W. MUSSELWHITE; Mr. and Mrs. S. ROGERS; W. J. L. SLADEN; Mrs. R. SPARROW; Mrs. SPRIGGS; Mrs. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members of the Union, 16; Members of the Club, 26; Guests, 17. Total, 59.

At the Meeting which followed, Mr. A. S. Phillips showed a wonderful colour film of bird life in Norfolk and in the islands of Shetland, Orkney and Skomer, including breeding sites of the Black-headed Gull, the Great and Richardson's Skuas, the Puffin and other rock-nesting birds, such as Guillemots and Razor-bills. The applause which followed indicated how much the audience appreciated the film.

Notes on Great Tits from Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

Mr. Jeffery G. Harrison sent the following note :—

In ' The Ibis ' 1938, p. 748, P. A. Clancey, writing on Western Scottish birds, states that the Great Tit from this area appears to have a rather more massive bill than topotypical material of *Parus major newtoni* Pražák. He adds that they also strike him as being of a purer and darker green on the mantle.

Clancey did not make a detailed study of this question before being sent abroad, and the task was handed on to me. I have been able to examine a series of twenty birds from Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, and these have been compared with a corresponding series from England—Kent and Worcestershire. In measuring the beak I have taken the length as from the skull, and the width has been taken at the nostrils Results are as follows :—

		Average bill length.	Average bill width.
		mm.	mm.
England :	Males (10)	12.7	5·6
	Females (9).....	12·3	5·2
West Scotland:	Males (7)	12·9	6·5
	Females (15)	12·9	6·1

From these figures the Scottish birds can be seen to have a slightly longer and decidedly more massive bill than the series from the south. However, when allowances are made for individual variation, only 50 per cent. of the Scottish ones are distinct on measurement, *i. e.* those with a width of bill of over 6 mm., which is the largest width found in the English series.

I have not been able to find any constant colour variation between the two groups.

There is no question of describing a new race on these bill differences, which are, nevertheless, of considerable interest, and will be of greater interest when they can be compared with a similar series from other parts of the British Isles, especially those from the extreme north of Scotland.

Before ending, I would like to thank Mr. P. A. Clancey and Dr. James M. Harrison for the loan of specimens on which this short note has been based.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following four notes :—

(1) On the Races of *Oriolus monacha* (Gmelin) and *Oriolus larvatus* Lichtenstein occurring in Eastern Africa.

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxiii. 1943, p. 51, we reviewed the races of *Oriolus monacha* occurring in Eastern Africa. In the Bull. B. O. C. lxiv. 1944, p. 52, Dr. van Someren has commented on this review, pointing out in particular that there are two species occurring in the same area, i. e. *Oriolus monacha* and *O. larvatus*, and differing in the edging to the wings, see p. 54.

Neumann, J. f. O. 1905, p. 233 ; Erlanger, J. f. O. 1907, p. 1, and Ogilvie-Grant, Ibis, 1913, p. 560, all recognize two species, the latter pointing out the essential differences. Zedlitz, J. f. O. 1916, p. 3, places *O. rolleti* and *O. reichenowi* as races of *O. larvatus*. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1937, p. 67, recognizes only a single species, placing five races under it, and gives good reasons for placing *O. reichenowi* as a synonym. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 127, places *O. rolleti*, *O. kikuyuensis* and *O. reichenowi* as races of *O. larvatus*, but in the Nov. Zool. xxxvii. 1932, p. 312, places *O. rolleti* and *O. reichenowi* as races of *O. monacha*. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 648, places all the races under *O. monacha*.

In view of Dr. van Somersen's note we have re-examined and remeasured the British Museum series and agree that there are two species which can be separated on very good characters, each having races in Eastern Africa. We agree with Dr. van Someren that *Oriolus brachyrynchus* Swainson is a distinct species, and that *Oriolus percivali* O.-Grant

is a race of *O. nigripennis* Verreaux. The arrangement we now adopt is as follows :—

A. Edges of primaries and outer secondaries grey ; outer webs of inner secondaries olivaceous yellow ; inner webs of inner secondaries olivaceous yellow or dusky washed with olivaceous yellow ; coverts of inner primaries edged with grey. Habitat as given by collectors : Forest ; wet country.

Oriolus monacha monacha (Gmelin).

Turdus monacha Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, 1799, p. 824 : Eritrea.

Tail yellow-green, with broad golden-yellow ends to all except central feathers, outermost tail feathers sometimes wholly golden yellow. The young bird has the black head of the adult, with some yellow streaks on the chin and throat and a black bill. Wing 128–145 ; culmen from base 25–28 mm. Fourteen specimens measured.

Distribution.—Eritrea and northern Abyssinia as far south as the Shoa area.

Oriolus monacha permistus Neumann.

Oriolus monachus permistus Neumann, O. M. 1904, p. 145 : Gadat, Gofa, south-western Abyssinia, of which *Oriolus meneliki* Blundell & Lovat, Bull. B. O. C. x. 1899, p. xix : Burka, Abyssinia, is a synonym.

Differs from *O. m. monacha* in having more or less black in the tail. Wing 130–150 ; culmen from base 24–28 mm. Twenty-four specimens measured.

Distribution.—Northern to eastern and south-western Abyssinia.

B. Edges of primaries and outer secondaries white or whitish, not grey ; outer webs of inner secondaries black, edged with olivaceous yellow ; inner webs of inner secondaries black ; coverts of inner primaries edged with olivaceous yellow or grey.

Habitat, as given by collectors : Woods and forests ; forest woodland ; bush ; bushveld ; orchard bush ; in bush ; in tree in light bush ; fig tree in thick thorn bush ; wattle plantation ; chestnut tree in garden ; well-wooded country ; wanders in evergreen forest, wherever tree-growth suitable.

Oriolus larvatus larvatus Lichtenstein.

Oriolus larvatus Lichtenstein, Verz. Doubl. 1823, p. 20 : Eastern Cape Province.

Differs from *O. m. monacha* and race as given above under B. Bill long. The young bird differs from the young bird of *O. m. monacha* and race in having the forehead and crown streaked yellow and black, the

black streaking of chin and throat extending to the breast and the character of the inner secondaries as in adults. Wing, male 137–144 (three), female 134–142 mm. (four); culmen from base, male 29–30 (three), female 29–31 mm. (four). Seven specimens measured.

Distribution.—Cape Province, Natal and Zululand.

ORIOLUS LARVATUS ROLLETI Salvadori.

Oriolus rolleti Salvadori, Atti. Acad. Torino, vii. 1864, p. 151 : Lat. 7° N. on White Nile, southern Sudan, of which we place *Oriolus larvatus reichenowi* Zedlitz, J.f.O. 1916, p. 1 : Afgoi, southern Italian Somaliland, as a synonym in view of Friedmann's measurements, although we have seen no specimens from southern Italian Somaliland. Differs from *O. l. larvatus* in having a smaller and shorter bill. Wing, male 125–136 (eighteen), one young bird 120, female 115–130 mm. (twelve); culmen from base, male 24–27 (eighteen), female 23–27 mm. (twelve). Thirty specimens measured.

Distribution.—Southern Sudan and eastern and southern Abyssinia to Italian Somaliland.

ORIOLUS LARVATUS KIKUYUENSIS van Someren.

Oriolus larvatus kikuyuensis van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 127 : Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

Size as in *O. l. larvatus* but shorter billed, and rather larger than *O. l. rolleti*. Wing, male 132–147 (thirty), one young bird 127, female 131–141 (fourteen); culmen from base, male 24–28 (thirty), one young bird from Monduli 29 mm., female 24–28 mm. (fourteen).

Forty-four specimens measured.

Distribution.—Uganda and Kenya Colony to Angola, Bechuanaland, the Transvaal and Portuguese East Africa as far south as Barberton and Inhambane; also Ukerewe Island, Lake Victoria.

Roberts, Bds. S. Afr. 1942, p. 216, gives wings of birds from Ngamiand, Matabeleland and Beira as 127–143 and culmen 23·5–27 mm., and in Ann. Trans. Mus. xvi. 1935, p. 162, places specimens from Maun, Kabulabula and Zimbabwe under *O. l. kikuyuensis*.

There is a considerable overlap in distribution between *O. m. monacha* and *O. m. permistus*, but the character of the tail markings is such that we cannot see our way to placing the latter as a synonym of the former. In *O. larvatus* there is an increase in size from north to south. *O. l. kikuyuensis* equals *O. l. larvatus* in wing measurement, but there is a difference in bill length, especially in the female, *i. e.* 29–31 against 24–28 mm. *O. l. rolleti* also overlaps *O. l. kikuyuensis* in wing measure-

ment and has a bill equal in length to that race, but the female is shorter winged, *i. e.* 115–130 against 131–141 mm. In view of these characters we recognize three races, and can define their geographical distribution.

O. m. permistus and *O. l. rolleti* occur in the same areas in Abyssinia, and we have examined specimens of both species from the Omo River valley area, Lakes Zwai to Abaya areas, and also the former from Harar and the latter from the Upper Hawash River.

The information on the habitat of *O. monacha* is very poor, but with *O. larvatus* it would appear that in South Africa it is more of a forest bird, whereas elsewhere it inhabits both woodland as well as gallery and other forest.

Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1937, p. 70, gives for *O. m. permistus*, wing 131–142 and culmen 22·5–25 mm., and for *O. l. rolleti*, wing 121–132·5 and culmen 22–24 mm. He places *O. rolleti* as a race of *O. monacha*.

(2) On the occurrence in Eastern Africa of *Lagonosticta landanæ* Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xiii. 1890, p. 283 : Landana, Portuguese Congo.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. 1930, p. 790, gives the distribution as "Apparently east to Tanganyika Territory (Kilosa, Morogoro District)." This record is presumably based on two specimens in the collection of the British Museum, collected by C. F. M. Swynnerton, *i. e.* no. 26, Kichangani, Kilosa, February 23, 1921, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1922.12.19.298, and no. 152, Kilosa, January 3, 1921, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1922.12.19.297. These two unsexed specimens are clearly males of *Lagonosticta senegala ruberrima* Reichenow, and, therefore, the record of *Lagonosticta landanæ* in Eastern Africa must be deleted.

(3) On the Status of *Estrilda xanthophrys* W. L. Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. 1926, p. 32.

In the original description the type locality is given as Senegal, but in the same Bulletin, p. 120, this is changed to Abyssinia.

We have examined these specimens in the British Museum collection and compared them with the various species of Waxbill that occur in north-eastern Africa. We are quite satisfied that they are *Estrilda troglodytes* (Lichenstein), with which they agree in every way except for the orange stripe through the eye, orange colour on the lower belly and orange bill. These three characters are in keeping with what normally

occurs in captivity, *i. e.* reds are liable to turn orange or yellow, probably caused by wrong feeding and lack of some essential vitamin.

The specimens in the Whitley collection mentioned on p. 120 could not have come from Abyssinia as this species does not occur east of the Sudan. Therefore *Estrilda xanthophrys* must become and remain a synonym of *Estrilda troglodytes*. It cannot be used for a geographical race, and there is no need to fix any other type locality for it than Senegal.

(4) On the Status of *Estrilda kandti* Reichenow, O. M. 1902, p. 184 : Lake Kivu, eastern Belgian Congo.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 802, places this as a race of *Estrilda atricapilla* Verreaux. In the original description two points are outstanding, *i. e.* rest of upper parts sepia brown and underside pale sepia brown, belly brighter, more isabelline brownish. The first point, " rest of upper parts sepia brown ", shows it is a young bird and can be equally applied to either the young bird of *Estrilda atricapilla* or *Estrilda nonnula* Hartlaub, as can all the other characters given except for point two, " underside pale sepia brown, belly brighter, more isabelline brownish ". The young birds of both *E. atricapilla* and *E. nonnula* agree very well with each other as regards the colour from the chin to the chest, but below this the young bird of the former is darker dusky brownish and dusky blackish on the lower belly and under tail coverts, whereas the young bird of the latter is paler buffy brown, including the under tail coverts. It seems clear that the description of *E. kandti* is that of a young bird of *E. nonnula* and not of *E. atricapilla*. Therefore *Estrilda kandti* Reichenow becomes a synonym of *Estrilda nonnula* Hartlaub, and *Estrilda atricapilla graueri* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 55 : Sabinyo Volcano, Kivu District, eastern Belgian Congo, must be used for the eastern race of *Estrilda atricapilla* Verreaux.

After the war we hope to see Kandt's specimen from Lake Kivu of *Estrilda kandti* Reichenow and, if it agrees with the description, to confirm the above decision.

Notice.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W 7, on Wednesday, May 16, 1945, following a dinner at 7 P.M.

16 JUL 1945
PURCHASED

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCLVII.

No Meeting of the Club took place in April.

The four-hundred-and-fiftieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, May 16, 1945, following a dinner at 7 P.M.

Chairman : Mr. D. SETH-SMITH.

Members present :—Miss C. M. ACLAND ; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH F. J. F. BARRINGTON ; B. G. HARRISON ; J. G. HARRISON ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; D. LACK ; Miss E. P. LEACH (*Hon. Treasurer*) ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor* and *Hon. Secretary*) ; J. D. MACDONALD ; Lt.-Col. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED ; Sir P. MANSON-BAHR ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; C. W. G. PAULSON ; Miss G. M. RHODES ; Lt.-Col. W. P. C. TENISON ; B. W. TUCKER ; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT ; C. DE WORMS.

Guests :—Miss THERESA CLAY ; Capt. R. A. JACKSON, R.N. ; Miss ANNE LIGHTFOOT ; Lieut. N. W. MOORE ; E. R. PARRINDER ; Dr. B. B. ROBERTS ; A. S. B. RUSSELL ; Miss B. N. SOLLY.

Members, 21 ; Guests, 8. Total, 29.

Purple-headed Starlings in the British Isles.

Mr. JEFFERY HARRISON exhibited a specimen of a Starling with a purplish head which he shot in Lincolnshire on December 23, 1943 ('British Birds', xxxviii. 1944, p. 112). The bird was ultimately identified as an example of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*, an eastern race of Starling. He made some further remarks on the subject, which led to an interesting discussion.

Dr. James Harrison made the following remarks upon *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* Finsch as a British bird, and the occurrence in the British Isles of possible intermediates between this form and *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* Linnæus, also a record of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* from Italy :—

Since the first record of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* ('British Birds', vol. xxxviii. pp. 112, 113), by Jeffery G. Harrison, from the mouth of the River Witham, near Boston, Lincolnshire, on December 23, 1943, a survey of several hundred British-taken examples of *Sturnus vulgaris* has been made. The review of this material has revealed no fewer than four individuals whose characters depart sufficiently from those of the typical form to merit analysis. One of these, a male, is a true *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*, and was obtained at Otford, near Sevenoaks, on March 19, 1928 ; upon the same day and from the same flock another male was shot, and these two exhibit admirably the phenomena presented by the "physiological" races of Bullough. This specimen matches the example of *S. v. poltaratskyi* from Lincolnshire recorded by Jeffery Harrison, whose identification was confirmed by myself, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, Col. R. Meinertzhagen, the late W. L. Sclater and Mr. N. B. Kinnear. The gonads of these two specimens measured as follows :—

Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi : left, 8×5 mm. ; right, 7×5 mm.
Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris : left, 15×9 mm. ; right, 12×10 mm.

In both these birds the bills had already changed to yellow, with grey at the base of the lower mandibles ; the former is still mainly in winter dress and the latter is already in summer plumage. Two further examples from Sevenoaks present a rather more difficult problem, for in one, an adult male, obtained on November 3, 1937, the characters it presents strongly suggest an intermediate make-up. The forehead shows a somewhat deep bottle green, turning to blue on the fore-crown, while from that point onwards the head and nape are predominantly purple, the ear-coverts are green and the mantle proper is purple, the back and rump are green, as are the wing-coverts. The immediate chin is blue, the throat strong purple, breast green, belly bluish, flanks strongly blue-purple. The under wing-coverts and axillaries are pale sepia edged with narrow cinnamon buff. The spotting of these basic ground colours is yellowish buff above and white below. The third example is also an adult male, and was obtained at Otford on April 6, 1927. Its characters are very similar to those of the bird just described, but its mantle is

rather more purple. The bill had already turned to breeding colour. and its gonads measured, both left and right, 14×9 mm., and this specimen was obviously in breeding condition.

The detection of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* in Lincolnshire and Kent, and the appearances of the other two intermediate examples from Kent, rendered it desirable to pursue this matter further, and to this end I have had a number of Starlings specially sent me from the east coast during this spring—samplings from flocks. A batch of six received included one obtained on March 20 at Northcotes, Lincolnshire, which proved on examination to be a further example of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*. It was one of a small flock within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the sea-wall. This example is a male, the plumage is still spotted, the gonads were minute and it was somewhat fat. The bill had commenced to turn yellow in its centre, while the base of the lower mandible was grey. The reflections presented by this specimen are as follows :—Forehead and crown purple, nape and mantle green, rump green, upper tail-coverts green. The ear-coverts are green, the chin and whole of the throat purple. The breast is green, merging to a bluish-black belly, while the flanks are blue-purple. The wing-coverts are green. The under wing-coverts and axillaries are pale sepia edged with pale cinnamon buff.

It may not be out of place here to refer to a small series of Starlings I collected in Thrace and Bulgaria during 1932 and 1935 (*vide* Ibis, July and October 1933 and July 1937). This region in Europe would appear to be a meeting place for a number of different forms, and the status of this species was discussed in the papers referred to above, and it is to be noted that I have in my collection an adult male example of *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*, collected on March 17, 1929, near Florence, Italy. It is clear that the species group *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnæus demands much systematic study before its complexities can be satisfactorily resolved.

Dr. Harrison exhibited specimens of the following :—

Sturnus v. vulgaris.
Sturnus v. poltaratskyi.
Sturnus v. vulgaris ≶ *poltaratskyi.*
Sturnus v. porphyronotus.

Miss E. P. Leach exhibited the mummified body of a Starling found in a bombed shop in Putney High Street in the first week of October 1944, having probably died in the previous winter, and which appeared to agree in its characters with *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*. This was a ringed bird and was trapped as an adult in a garden at Wimbledon on

May 31, 1939. Miss Leach also showed a specimen from Bickleigh, S. Devon, January 30, 1945, which had been ringed at Leiden, Holland, and also appeared to show these characters to a lesser extent.

Mr. B. W. Tucker made the following remarks (in abstract) on these birds and others exhibited by him :—

The Putney bird was kindly sent to me by Miss Leach for examination. It agrees with *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* in the purple, instead of green, gloss on the crown and also in the purplish flanks, which seems to be a *S. poltaratskyi* character, as against a more steely blue colour in *S. vulgaris*. On comparing this bird with the quite small series of Starlings in the Oxford University Museum, I found another British-killed specimen which, apart from a slight difference in the degree of wear of the plumage, is absolutely identical with it. This was shot at Windsor in, according to the label, April 1895. It appears to me highly improbable that the very small series of British-killed Starlings at Oxford should include another Siberian specimen, and the date when the Putney bird was ringed suggests, though it does not prove, that it was breeding in this country. These considerations cannot fail to raise some doubt whether these purple-crowned birds are correctly identified as *S. poltaratskyi* and whether they are not more likely to be variants of the typical race which resemble the Siberian race more or less closely. The latter alternative seems to be strengthened by the fact that specimens with crowns of a somewhat intermediate type can be found amongst birds from the British Isles and Western Europe. On the other hand the Windsor specimen is in surprisingly unworn plumage for April and heavily spotted, which, in view of Bullough's work on the Starling, might suggest that it *is* a foreign bird. There is a possibility, however, that the date is incorrect.

The fact that purple-crowned birds occur in the British Isles is not a new discovery. Indeed, Mr. Kinnear has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that it was discussed by Bowdler Sharpe (' Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum ', vol. xiii. p. 29) as long ago as 1890. Sharpe expressly describes these birds as intermediate between *S. vulgaris* and *menzbieri* (=*S. poltaratskyi*), but states that in his experience they are " never true *S. menzbieri*, as they always have green ear-coverts " instead of purple. This last point applies also to the birds now under discussion, both the Putney and Windsor specimens having ear-coverts with a greenish, not purplish, gloss. It will be seen, therefore, that Sharpe

had already recognized most of the essential facts in the situation which is now attracting renewed attention. It may be doubted, however, whether the colour of the ear-coverts is such a valid difference as Sharpe supposed between " true *menzbieri* ", or *poltaratskyi* as we now call it, and the British birds. Hartert in describing *poltaratskyi* does not go further than to say " *more or less* purple ear-coverts " (italics mine), and I have to-day examined in the British Museum series birds shot in Sind in winter, which are generally accepted as *poltaratskyi* (and in any case are not *S. vulgaris*), in which the ear-coverts are definitely greenish.

We therefore arrive at the position that there occur in the British Isles, at any rate in winter, and apparently not very uncommonly, Starlings which, on the basis of a preliminary examination, do not appear to differ decisively from *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi* in any character. Nevertheless, I am not convinced that this race should be added to the British list, for the reasons already given. A very important point, which remains to be determined by the study of a really adequate series, is whether purple-crowned individuals occur regularly amongst definitely breeding birds in Britain and, if so, whether the proportion is about the same as in winter. Pending a more thorough investigation the above remarks must be regarded as essentially preliminary and provisional.

Colonel Meinertzhagen said :

Not only Sharpe but Dresser, Hartert and Witherby recognized that British Starlings frequently had purplish heads. In my key to the Starlings, after having examined the large series of *S. v. poltaratskyi* in Leningrad, I found that the purple ear-coverts were a constant character in breeding birds from Siberia, in the same way that green ear-coverts are a constant character in British breeding birds. The mantle of both these races is green. But where you get British purple-headed birds the purple is not pure violet-purple as in *S. v. poltaratskyi*, but with a slight admixture of oily green. I have recently shot British breeding birds with purplish heads, notably in the Scilly Isles, Berkshire and Norfolk ; and in my collection of several dozen British Starlings a large proportion have purplish heads, but in every case green ear-coverts.

Mr. Jeffery Harrison's bird more closely resembles true *S. v.poltaratskyi* than any British-taken Starling I have seen, for the ear-coverts are distinctly purplish, but that does not follow that it is a migrant from Siberia.

Supplementary note by B. W. Tucker :—

The general upshot of the discussion at the meeting, and especially of Col. Meinertzhagen's observations, has been very strongly to reinforce my opinion that in the present state of the evidence, and pending an exhaustive investigation, with special reference to British breeding birds, it is altogether undesirable and imprudent to assume that purple-crowned Starlings obtained in Western Europe are Siberian immigrants, and to record them as such.

It is evident from what we have heard that more work will be required to determine what these purple-headed Starlings now turning up in England really are. Sharpe, as Colonel Meinertzhagen and Mr. B. W. Tucker have already pointed out, more than 50 years ago described what was apparently the same thing as intermediate between *S. vulgaris* and *S. menzbieri* (=*S. poltaratskyi*) and suggested they should be named. This was never done, and it is remarkable that this question should crop up again now, after half a century.—G. C. L. (Editor).

The following references will be useful for those pursuing the subject :—

R. B. Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xiii. 1890, pp. 26, 38.
R. B. Sharpe, J. f. O. 1891, pp. 307, 308.
R. B. Sharpe, Brit. Birds (Allen's Naturalist's Library), 1894, i. p. 24, pl.
Hartert, Vög. pal. Faun. i. 1910, p. 44.
J. G. Harrison, Brit. Birds, xxxviii. 1944, p. 112.

On Francolins from Angola and Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following note, with descriptions of two new races of Francolin :—

Francolinus sephæna (A. Smith).

The occurrence of this Francolin in the Zambesi River valley has been suspected, and Winterbottom has recently obtained a specimen there in the Kalomo district. Examination of the material in the Transvaal Museum shows that birds of the typical race from the western Transvaal are all darker and more heavily vermiculated below than birds from South-west Africa to Bechuanaland and Kalomo. For the latter the oldest name is *Dendroperdix sephæna thompsoni* Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. x. 1924, p. 78 : Grootfontein). Roberts has also recognized two other races, *D. s. chobiensis* (Ann. Transv. Mus. xv. 1932, p. 21 : Kalluabula) and *D. s. mababiensis* (*ibid.* p. 23: Mababe Flats). Personally the material

which I have examined does not convince me that these two further races are recognizable, and I would include all, including the Kalomo bird, under *Francolinus sephæna thompsoni* (Roberts). Some of the specimens of this pale race have almost lost all trace of vermiculations on the underside. This is the only race of *F. sephæna* recorded from Northern Rhodesia, for it has not been established that *F. s. zambesiæ* Praed occurs so far upstream.

Pternistis swainsoni (A. Smith).

Examination of the type and other material of *P. s. chobiensis* Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. xv. 1932, p. 23 : Kabulabula), and comparison with a series of the typical race, shows that *P. s. chobiensis* is a well-marked and quite valid race, ranging from Northern Bechuanaland and the north-west of Southern Rhodesia to the Kafue River and Lusaka. The most marked character is the much paler underside, with a greyer, less rufous tinge, the finer stripes and the smaller size (wing, males 187–197 mm., females 164–175 mm.). *P. s. damariensis* Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. 1931, p. 238 : Kenilworth, Otjiwanngo) must also be recognized, I think, on account of its larger bill (males 26·5–27·5 mm.) than the typical race (males 22·5–25·0 mm.). It is also a little paler and less heavily marked below. I have not examined specimens of *P. s. gilli* Roberts from Ovamboland.

Pternistis afer (Müller).

Bowen discussed the races of this species in Angola and recognized three, viz. : *Pternistis afer afer* (Müller), *P. a. benguellensis* Bocage, and *P. a. punctulatus* (Gray). According to Grant and Praed the latter name is a synonym of *P. a. cranchii* (Leach), and based on the type of *P. a. cranchii*, and so cannot be used for a different race of the bird. I recognize :—

(a) *Pternistis afer afer* (Müller), a well-marked race with a white eyebrow-stripe, and the underside white with blackish streaks, but no rufous. *Pternistis sclateri* Bocage (type from Mossamedes) is a synonym. The range seems to be from the Cunene River to Gambos and Catumbella. The exact boundary between this and the next remains to be worked out.

(b) *Pternistis afer benguellensis* Bocage, described from Galanga, and *P. cranchi angolensis* Roberts is a synonym. In this race the eyebrow stripe is black, and the feathers of the underside are white with dark brown or blackish centres and rufous edges. In a series from

Mombolo, including the type of *P. c. angolensis* Roberts, there is a good deal of individual variation, some birds having more white than others on the feathers, and some with the rufous reduced. The range of this race seems to be the high ground along the Atlantic drainage from Mombolo to Galanga.

(c) **Pternistis afer manueli,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *P. a. cranchii* (Leach) in being less vermiculated with greyish below than that race, but nevertheless with distinct scattered vermiculations which separate it at once from *P. c. intercedens* Reichenow, in which the white breast feathers are practically without a trace of vermiculations.

Distribution.—General Machado and Ndala Tando to N.W. Northern Rhodesia (Mwinilunga and Kasempa), south down the Zambesi River to Balovale and gradually fusing in the north-east with *P. a. intercedens.* A specimen from the Kague which agrees with this race seems to be its southern known limit, and one from Isoka is also very similar, but is immature.

Type.—Male, in my collection, collected October 30, 1944, at Cazombo, Alto Zambesi, Angola.

Material.—White collection, 14 ; Transvaal Museum, 2.

(d) **Pternistis afer mackenziei,** subsp. nov.

Description.—A very heavily vermiculated race resembling *P. a. cranchii* (Leach), but even more closely and darkly vermiculated, and with no rufous margins to the feathers below, only a faint trace of pale buffy orange on two or three feathers.

Type.—Female, in my collection, collected June 25, 1943, at Nguvu, where the Lungwerungu River runs from Northern Rhodesia into Angola. This race is quite different from the last and perhaps represents a chain of intergradation from the last race to *P. a. benguellensis* Bocage.

Remarks.—Only known from the type locality : two examined.

A new Race of Nightjar from Ceylon.

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley sent the following description :—

Caprimulgus macrurus æquabilis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *C. macrurus* Horsfield of Java by being darker and smokier on the crown, nape and collar. The vermiculations on the crown are finer, giving a more uniform appearance. There are

less of the black-centred feathers in the centre of the crown, so that the blackish head patch is much reduced. The collar has a blackish appearance. On the underparts the vermiculations on the breast-feathers also are finer, presenting a more uniform, darker appearance. In size there is no difference.

From *C. atripennis* Jerdon of South India this new race is definitely darker in tone, as noted by Whistler (*l. c.*), particularly on the back. The amount of banding on the collar also is reduced.

Distribution.—Ceylon.

Type.—Male adult, U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 375899 ; collected at Trincomalee, north-east Ceylon, May 19, 1944, by S. Dillon Ripley.

Remarks.—These birds are quite commonly seen hawking for insects or squatting in the middle of the road at night in the north-central or north-eastern part of the island. Their irides reflect pinkish red in the beam of an automobile headlight. This bird and another adult male, taken at the same time, had the testes greatly enlarged. The soft parts are listed as : iris brown ; bill dark brown ; feet dark brown.

In " The Avifaunal Survey of Ceylon " (Spolia Zeylanica, xxiii. pts. 3 and 4, 1944, p. 234) the late Mr. Hugh Whistler lists the Jungle Nightjar under the name of the Javan bird, *Caprimulgus macrurus macrurus*, remarking : " The series from Java in the British Museum is very poor, but so far as it goes I am unable to see any difference between Ceylon and Javanese birds, and, therefore, attribute the former to the typical form."

Recently I have collected some of these Nightjars in Ceylon and have had an opportunity of comparing them with the series of Javanese and Ceylon birds in the collections of the United States National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. There is enough Javanese material in these collections to show appreciable differences.

Note on the Status of Ploceus graueri.

Dr. Ernst Mayr sent the following communication :—

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxv. 1945, p. 16, Grant and Praed come to the conclusion " that we must consider *Ploceus graueri* Hartert to be a synonym of *Ploceus nigriceps* (Layard) ". Neither the type nor any other specimen of *Ploceus graueri* was available to those authors when they made the quoted statement. A letter which I had written to Captain Grant on June 20, 1944, and to which he refers in his recent note, includes a discussion of the type and many paratypes of *Ploceus graueri*. The

following excerpt from this letter might prove useful to students of African birds :—

" Dr. Chapin and I have looked over our series of thirty-one specimens of *P. graueri* and have had to confirm the opinion of Sclater and other recent authors that it is a subspecies of *P. nigriceps*. A series of seven adult males measures 84·5, 85·5, 85·5, 86, 87, 87·5 and 88 mm. The chief distinguishing features of this subspecies are that the yellow of the underparts in adult males is much darker and somewhat washed with chestnut. The difference is so marked that not a single one of a large series of adult male *P. nigriceps* approaches *P. graueri* in this respect.

A comparison with *P. collaris* has convinced me that it would be consistent with modern practice to consider it as conspecific with *P. nigriceps*. Not only are the ranges mutually exclusive, but *P. graueri* has some of the features of an intermediate. To combine these two so-called species would seem to constitute a welcome simplification of the unwieldy genus *Ploceus*.

The range of *P. graueri* is best characterized by the following localities in the Rothschild Collection : Rutshuru Plain, Ruzizi River, Usumbura, between Kagera and Nsasa, between Kagera and Marienseen, Mtagata, near Baraka (Lake Tanganyika), and immatures from Lake Urigi, Kifumbiro (Karagwe), and Kitenguru (Karagwe). For additional records see Schouteden, ' Birds of Park Albert ', 1938, p. 155.

Needless to say, *P. graueri* has nothing to do with *P. cucullatus* ".

The localities Kasulu and Kigoma are far to the south-east of the above outlined range of *P. graueri*, and a comparison of some specimens of *P. nigriceps* from these two localities with other specimens of *P. nigriceps*, as made by Grant and Praed, has no bearing whatever on the validity of *P. graueri*. This well-defined race of *P. nigriceps* has a restricted range in the area west and north of Lake Tanganyika and west of Lake Victoria *.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following note :—

On the Species of the Genus *Steganura* occurring in Eastern Africa, and the correct reference to *Emberiza paradisæa* Linnæus.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 810, recognizes only one species, as does Delacour and Edmond-Blanc, L'Oiseau, 3 and 4, 1933, and

* Lake Burigi is about 180 miles north-east of Kigoma and Kasulu. Baraka is about 60 miles north-west of Kigoma. Usumbura is about 105 miles due north of Kigoma and Kasulu.—C. H. B. Grant.

1934, p. 125, despite the fact that the latter in their distributional map give an overlap between *Stegnanura paradisæa paradisæa* (Linnæus) and *Stegnanura paradisæa obtusa* Chapin. Chapin, Am. Mus. Nov. xliii. 1922, "Geographic races of *Stegnanura*", recognizes two species, *S. paradisæa* Linnæus and *S. aucupum* Neumann. In the Auk, xlvi. 1929, p. 474, this author again discusses this group, and agrees that his *S. a. nilotica* is a synonym of *S. orientalis* (Heuglin), but has not pointed out that this has priority over *S. aucupum*. Bannerman, Ibis, 1923, p. 680, and Bates and Bannerman, Ibis, 1924, p. 269, follow Chapin.

Our examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that both *S. paradisæa* and *S. obtusa* occur in Eritrea, Abyssinia, Angola, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and Roberts, Bds. S. Afr. 1942, p. 364, states that both occur at Beira, Portuguese East Africa.

Chapin, Am. Mus. Nov. xliii. 1922, p. 3, has correctly stated that Linnæus's *Emberiza paradisæa* in Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 178, is based on two different species, and is, therefore, indeterminate, and that the same author in the 12th ed. 1766, p. 312, has defined this name as the narrow-tailed bird and given Angola as the type locality. Most authors have quoted the 1758 edition for the name and the 1766 edition for the type locality, but we are of opinion that the name must be accepted also as of 1766, for had two different authors, and not the same author, given this name to the same bird, the first, as being indeterminate, would have been dropped out of nomenclature and the other, having a clear description, would have had to be accepted. We must therefore accept that *Emberiza paradisæa* Linnæus, 1758, must drop out of nomenclature, and the correct reference to this name is *Emberiza paradisæa* Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 1766, p. 312 : Angola.

We follow those authors who consider there are two distinct species, and recognize the following as occurring in Eastern Africa :—

Steganura paradisæa (Linnæus).

Emberiza paradisæa Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 312 : Angola.

Distribution.—Eritrea, Abyssinia and the south-eastern Sudan to north-eastern Uganda, Kenya Colony, Angola, Bechuanaland, eastern Cape Province and Natal.

Steganura orientalis orientalis (Heuglin).

Vidua paradisea orientalis Heuglin, Orn. Nord-Ost Afr. i. 1, 1871, p. 583 : Keren, Eritrea.

Distribution.—Lake Chad to Eritrea and the western and southern Sudan.

Steganura orientalis obtusa Chapin.

Steganura aucupum obtusa Chapin, Am. Mus. Nov. xliii. 1922, p. 6 : Luchenya, southern Nyasaland.

Distribution.—Eastern and southern Belgian Congo and western Tanganyika Territory at Kasulu and Kigoma to Angola, northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, eastern Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa as far south as Gazaland, and Beira.

The Racial Status of Northern Scottish Great Tits.

Mr. P. A. Clancey sent the following communication :—

Mr. J. G. Harrison's recent work on a series of *Parus major* from S.W. Scotland (*vide* Bull. B. O. C. vol. lxv. 1945, pp. 26–27) has shown that the birds occurring in this region have more massive beaks than topotypical examples of *Parus major newtoni* Pražák, described from England.

In 1943 I had cause to carry out some researches into British Paridæ, and I am in a position to support Mr. Harrison's contentions. My remarks in Ibis, 1938, p. 746, are germane to this question. But it is not south-west Scottish birds with which I intend to deal in this short note, but with the form occurring in the north of Scotland. Two specimens obtained in natural coniferous forest near Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, in August/September, 1938, are clearly not assignable to *Parus major newtoni* Pražák, or Mr. Harrison's innominate south-west Scottish type, on account of their decidedly more gracile beaks and very much paler general coloration. The two Dornoch skins agree remarkably well with examples of the typical race, *Parus major major* Linnæus : Sweden, and it may well be that on the production of a more comprehensive series, this race will be found to be the resident one in the region. The specimens under consideration exhibit traces of juvenile dress, and this, in my opinion, rules out any question of immigration from northern Europe ; the date, too, would tend to support this view.

Hesitant as I am to list on this meagre material *Parus major major* Linnæus unquestionably as the resident form of northern Scotland, I cannot help expressing the opinion that we have here another sound link in the steadily increasing concatination of facts to show that the majority of north of Scotland resident species exhibit distinct and striking tendencies towards the Scandinavian types.

A new Town on the Kentish Coast.

Lieut. N. W. Moore said that he had heard reports that a big building scheme was on foot for making a new town between Winchelsea and Rye along the shore and also for extending building beyond Camber to the east in the direction of the Midrips. Dr. Carmichael Low said that all that would come under the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, of which Mr. W. S. Morrison was Minister, and that, as far as he knew, the ground below Winchelsea had been examined by the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee to see if it should be scheduled as a reserve area where bird and other life would be protected. As regards the position east of Camber, there was the golf course, then some vacant ground with the ground further along belonging to the War Office, and it was certain that they would not allow any building on their land, which included the Midrips, the Wicks, and the ground to the east.

Future of Heligoland.

Colonel Meinertzhagen drew the attention of the Meeting to two letters which had recently appeared in 'The Times' about the future of Heligoland. He said he had tried at the Peace Conference in 1918 to get the island put under International Control as a bird observatory, but failed. He hoped that the Chairman would bring the matter to the notice of the President and Committee of the Union with a view to their addressing a letter to the Foreign Office, endorsed by the Union, urging the advisability of placing Heligoland under International Control for the purpose of an ornithological observatory. Mr. B. G. Harrison, Secretary of the Union, who was present, said he would bring the matter before the Union Committee.

Notice.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Thursday, June 28, 1945, at 6 p.m. Owing to food shortage there will be no dinner, but refreshments, sandwiches, etc., will be served at a buffet-bar after the Meeting at 5*s.* per head.

14 AUG 1945
PURCHASED

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCLVIII.

The four-hundred-and-fifty-first Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, at 6 P.M. on Thursday, June 28, 1945. Refreshments were served after the Meeting.

Chairman : Mr. D. SETH-SMITH.

Members present :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; F. J. F. BARRINGTON (*Vice-Chairman*) ; J. FISHER ; R. S. R. FITTER ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT ; J. G. HARRISON ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; P. A. D. HOLLOM ; N. B. KINNEAR ; D. LACK ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor* and *Hon. Secretary*) ; J. D. MACDONALD ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; Lt.-Col. W. P. C. TENISON ; B. W. TUCKER ; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT ; C. DE WORMS.

Guests :—Miss E. S. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Dr. J. BERRY ; Miss THERESA CLAY ; E. COHEN ; C. T. DALGETY ; J. VESEY.

Members of the B. O. C., 18 ; Guests, 6. Total, 24.

Mr. JAMES FISHER gave a very interesting description of a tour he had made in Scotland this summer.

In a discussion which followed, several members of the Club took part.

A new Race of Bustard from Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the following description :—

Eupodotis senegalensis mackenziei, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *E. s. barrowii* (Gray) in being larger, tawny rufous of upper surface and wing-coverts lighter and more pinky, less orange, and the ear-coverts with a pronounced rufous-buff patch.

Distribution.—The western area of the Balovale district, south-east to Mantoya (recorded in Ibis, 1942, p. 346, as *E. s. canicollis* (Reichenow)). A bird from Mocussuege, Angola (Ibis, 1934, p. 37) is doubtless identical.

Type.—Adult male collected by K. Muzeya on June 21, 1943, on open plain between Mwange Lake and the Lungwevungu River in Balovale district of Northern Rhodesia, about 15 miles from Angola border. At present in my collection.

Remarks.—Two males, one female examined. Wing, two males, 245, 300; tarsus 94–95; exposed culmen 38–41 mm. Named in honour of Mr. E. K. Mackenzie of the Game and Tsetse Department, who traversed this part of Balovale while attached to the Angola border Cattle Cordon, and was the first to tell me of its ornithological possibilities.

A new Race of Lark from South-west Africa.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following description :—

Mirafra africana okahandjae, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *M. a. grisescens* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. 1902, p. 62: Tibakai's Vley, Matabeleland, but much less heavily streaked above, and with the feather margins paler and pinker, less rufous.

Distribution.—The Windhuk–Okahandja area of South-west Africa; five examined.

Type.—In Transvaal Museum. Male, T.M. no. 13347. Collected on June 19, 1924, at Okahandja, S.W. Africa, by R. D. Bradfield.

Remarks.—In Bull. B. O. C. lxiv. 1943, pp. 20–21, I discussed briefly the southern races of *Mirafra africana* Smith. Further examination of this material has necessitated a change in one respect, and the recognition of an undescribed race. Specimens from Mt. Selinda agree with a long series of *M. a. transvaalensis* Hartert, which ranges from Vryburg in the Northern Cape Province, right across the Transvaal. Others from Southern Rhodesia (Umvuma and Beatrice near Salisbury) are more reddish sandy than the rufous *M. a. transvaalensis* and have the black centres more pronounced on the whole on the upper side. Birds from Bulawayo and Matabeleland are very like them, but a trifle paler and less heavily streaked. A series of topotypes of *M. a. grisescens* is needed to establish the final status of that race, which seems to be very similar to, but paler than, *M. a. transvaalensis*. I consider that its range should provisionally be extended to include Mazabuka in Northern Rhodesia.

Mirafra a. gomesi White extends from the Macondo region of Angola south through eastern Balovale to Mongu, Mankoya, and the Nalolo area of Senanga in Barotseland. The ranges of the races in South Africa are :—

MIRAFRA A. AFRICANA Smith.

Orange Free State to Cape Province at Bedford, east to Pondoland : intergrades with the next race in Natal. 14 examined.

MIRAFRA A. ZULUENSIS (Roberts).

Zululand and Swaziland. 15 examined.

MIRAFRA A. TRANSVAALENSIS Hartert.

Cape Province at Vryburg across Transvaal to Mt. Selinda. 52 examined.

MIRAFRA A. GRISESCENS Sharpe.

Central Southern Rhodesia to Northern Rhodesia (Mazabuka). 14 examined.

MIRAFRA A. OKAHANDJAE White.

Central Damaraland. 5 examined.

MIRAFRA A. GHANSIENSIS (Roberts).

Molopo River to Maun, Bechuanaland. 4 examined.

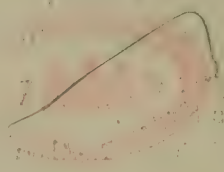
MIRAFRA A. PALLIDIOR Shelley.

Ovamboland. 1 examined.

Notice.

The Annual General Meeting and the next Ordinary Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, South Kensington, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, October 17, 1945. It is hoped that dinners will be available again by that date, and in that case the Annual General Meeting would be at 6 P.M., the dinner at 7 P.M., with the Ordinary Meeting following that.

The Notices and Agenda for the above will be sent out at the beginning of October.



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